

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03681 041558Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 COME-00 MCE-00 AID-05
HA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /097 W
-----018728 041603Z /47

O R 041457Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5706
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR

UNCLAS ATHENS 3681

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU, GR
SUBJ: REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON EMBARGO ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 113281 (NOTAL) (B) ATHENS 3636 (NOTAL)
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1. THE VOTE YESTERDAY BY THE HIRC (REFTEL A) WAS A PROMI-
NENT NEWS ITEM TODAY IN GREECE WHERE THE PROGRESS OF THE
LEGISLATION ON THE LIFTING OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO
IS BEING VERY CLOSELY FOLLOWED. THE CLOSE VOTE IN THE
HIRC WAS PLAYED HERE BY MOST OF THE MEDIA AS INDICATING DIFFI-
CULT TIMES AHEAD FOR THE LEGISLATION IN THE CONGRESS.

THE AFTERNOON RADIO GAVE SOME FANFARE TO REPORTS FROM "DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL CIRCLES" IN WASHINGTON THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS WERE DOOMED TO FAILURE IN VIEW OF THE ONE VOTE MARGIN YESTERDAY, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT TWO CONGRESSMEN WHO OPPOSE THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO DID NOT VOTE.

2. MOST NEWSPAPERS ALSO INDICATED IN THEIR REPORTING THAT THE LEGISLATION FACED ROUGH SLEDDING AHEAD. OPPOSITION TO VIMA AND ITS AFTERNOON SISTER TA NEA PRINTED AN EFSTATHIADIS STORY WHICH STRONGLY SUGGESTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE EMBARGO WOULD BE DEFEATED LATER IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS. ONLY COMMUNIST RIZASPASTIS WROTE THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION WAS CONSIDERED ASSURED, ADDING THAT SINCE GREECE FOLLOWED CARAMANLIS' POLICY OF BELONGING TO THE WEST, GREECE WOULD THEREFORE BE SURE TO ACQUIESCE IN AMERICA'S REMOVING THE EMBARGO. MOST AFTERNOON EDITIONS REPORT THE BINGHAM AMENDMENT AND CHARACTERIZE IT AS "SUGAR COATING" FOR THE EMBARGO PILL.

3. IN A RELATED VEIN, THE MAY 2 SFRC HEARINGS HAS ALL BUT FADED FROM THE NEWS. AS AN EXCEPTION, FAR RIGHT ELEFTHEROS COSMOS PRINTED IN CONSIDERABLE LENGTH THE TESTIMONIES OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, SECRETARY BROWN, AND CLARK CLIFFORD.

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